(b) if so, the details of such routes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, it is the policy of the Railways to consider closure of those uneconomic Branch lines where alternative modes of transport facilities exist.

Losses due to Flood

578. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the monsoon fury has claimed more than 100 lives in the western and northern parts of the country due to heavy floods;

(b) if so, the extent of losses caused to human lives, crops, houses and properties in the flood affected areas; State-wise and the details of relief operation being undertaken and Central assistance given to the concerned States in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for providing succour to the nearest kith and kin of the victims of the fury of the floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) Eleven States and one Union Territory have so far reported damage due to heavy rains, floods, landslides etc. during current south-west monsoon The extent of damage to life and property etc as reported by the affected States/Union Territory on 7.8.1990 is given at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No.20]

Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, 75 percent of which is to be contributed by Central Government in four quarterly instalments as a non-plan grant and the balance 25 percent is to be arranged by the State Government from its own resources. A State Level Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary of the State Government has been impowered to decide on all matters connected with the relief expenditure including the norms on which the relief should be provided. Following the constitution of the CRF, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to undertake all relief measures and incur neccessary expenditure in the wake of natural calamities.

All affected State Governments are taking necessary relief measures like opening of relief camps and health centres, deployment of boats for evacuation of the marooned people to the safer places, distribution of food packets and other essential commodities and an ex-gratia payment to the next kith and kin of the deceased.

A Statement showing the amount allocated to the various States under the CRF for 1990-91 and the amount released so far towards Centre's contribution to CRF is at Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No.21]

579. [*Transferred to* 27th *August*, 1990]

Train accident near Mangra Railway Station

580. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train rammed into the Gomoh-Gorhwa Chopan passenger train near Mangra Railway Station in the month of June, 1990;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed, and